

of some shape or form. There must be an afterschool program somewhere in all of Palm Beach County, Florida.

I believe that as we move through this debate it is important for us to be responsible in our rhetoric and keep our eyes on the ball, which is the looming fiscal crisis that is out there if Congress does not have the courage to get its arms around mandatory spending, which is consuming Federal spending, making up over 50 percent of it today and two-thirds of Federal spending.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield just for a quick correction?

Mr. PUTNAM. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, that is Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, not West Palm Beach. Our colleague MARK FOLEY represents that area, a Republican.

I represent Pahokee and Belle Glade, which are also in Palm Beach, and you are talking about no tax base. I just want to have that correction made.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman referred to the entire county, not his piece of the county, and I certainly am well aware of Pahokee and Belle Glade and the challenges that they have gone through.

But I believe somewhere in your county you have an afterschool program.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. In private schools.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 559 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 559

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

□ 1100

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 559 is a rule which waives all points of order against the conference report accompanying H.R. 3010 and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation is one of the most important measures we consider each year. I would like to congratulate the members of the Appropriations Committee for putting together a comprehensive package that will improve the education of our children, care for our seniors and our underprivileged.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that since Republicans took control of Congress, funding for the Department of Education has doubled. More recently, over the last 5 years, total education spending has increased by nearly 50 percent. Our children will benefit from an improved educational system that will enhance their ability to succeed and better prepare the next generation of workers.

The fundamental root of all education is reading. As a parent and a former educator, the time I spent reading with my children will be forever cherished. Unfortunately, some of our youth do not have that opportunity at home. So included in this legislation is \$1 billion for reading programs that will enable States to eliminate the reading deficit through scientific research-based reading programs.

I am also very pleased that the TRIO and GEAR UP programs are included in this all important funding package. These programs assist low-income, first generation college students in their transition from high school to college. This is a difficult transition for any student, but especially for those who are the first in their families to attend college. We must continue to support programs like TRIO and GEAR UP so that these students can continue to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, another important responsibility we have is to ensure that citizens have access to health care facilities and treatments. Included in this legislation is a \$66 million increase in the Community Health Centers that are so vitally important across the Nation, but especially in rural States like my home State of West Virginia.

The National Institutes of Health continues to serve our Nation well by developing new treatments and cures for the many diseases that plague our society. With a total funding level of \$28.6 billion, the researchers at NIH will be able to continue this mission so that we become a healthier Nation and global society.

A key aspect of a healthier society is where all citizens have access to prescription drugs, and I am proud to say that as of November 15, just 2 days ago, Medicare eligible beneficiaries have been able to sign up for a prescription drug plan under Medicare. The resources provided in the underlying legislation will allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to properly conduct an outreach effort that will hopefully enroll every senior that stands to benefit from this program.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the challenges that could potentially face all Americans in the coming winter, especially the high cost of natural gas. I am pleased to say that the State formula grants for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, are funded at \$2 billion in this legislation and an additional \$1 billion will be included in the House version of the budget reconciliation bill.

As with any appropriations legislation, tough choices were made. These choices are particularly difficult when dealing with the sensitive areas of health and education. The Appropriations Committee allotted the available resources in this bill in a manner that emphasizes these programs most important to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is solid legislation that I believe all Members should be able to support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today we consider House Resolution 559, the rule allowing consideration of the conference report accompanying the fiscal year 2006 Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill. This legislation is the clearest demonstration of the contempt for the proper functioning of this body and ultimately disrespect for democracy.

The Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill is an incredibly important piece of legislation. It determines funding levels for job training programs, community college programs, child labor protections, and community health centers.

This legislation is the primary funding vehicle for the National Institutes of Health. It determines how our government approaches timely and important issues like stem cell research,

global AIDS research, pediatric medicine, cancer research, and so many other critical issues. It is also the principal funder of some of the most innovative and practical research going on today at the universities and colleges across the Nation.

In my home State of California, two thirds of all basic research at the University of California system is from Federal dollars. As examples using these dollars, the university researchers found a way to differentiate Alzheimer's from other dementia. They are making strides on identifying genes that cause specific cancers. They are looking into factors that influence brain development.

The reason I am pointing to all of this is to underscore just how important this legislation is to the daily lives of our fellow Americans. And having established that this bill is a crucial bill for the health, welfare, education, and prosperity of the American people, I would ask my counterparts on the Republican side of the aisle why on earth is it that no one has seen this conference report? Why is it that as of this morning, this very morning, we are scheduled to consider and vote upon this legislation that no one in the House of Representatives, with exception of a very few in the Republican leadership, has even laid eyes on, much less read or analyzed? We did not even go into the Rules Committee to consider this legislation until 7 o'clock this morning under emergency rules.

The original version of this bill passed the House months ago, and I might remind my fellow Americans that it was in this bill that the Republican leadership of this body tried to quietly eliminate funding for the Public Broadcasting System and Sesame Street. Thankfully, under incredible pressure they were forced to reverse themselves.

And since then, this bill and its Senate companion have been locked away in conference. A handful of appointees of this Republican leadership have had months to meet in smokey back rooms. This select group decided for all of us here today and for every American family what should and should not be in the final version of the bill. So with that understanding, let me say that this is, at best, a short-sided piece of legislation.

No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million. The maximum Pell Grant award is frozen for the 4th straight year, and no new funding for all other student financial aid and support programs is provided. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for special education through IDEA. Training grants for health care professionals are cut \$206 million.

I want everyone in America to understand exactly why these programs are being cut. Because in the face of gross fiscal mismanagement on the part of this majority, they want to pass a \$56 billion tax cut for wealthy Americans this coming week. Over half of that

money, \$23 billion, will go to the very wealthiest of Americans, those earning over \$1 million per year.

Now, I am certainly not suggesting that there are not government programs that cannot be cut. But what we are talking about are educational programs, health and safety programs, and treatment programs that not only work, but they work well for middle class American families, and they are being sacrificed for tax cuts for the most wealthy and the super rich. The rest of America is being left behind.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we are facing an increasingly costly war in Iraq, significant and necessary hurricane relief needs, and a looming crisis over avian flu. The debate I urge my colleagues to have, a debate not yet addressed by my friends on the other side of the aisle, is really about shared sacrifice and about what the true priorities of the American people are.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to point out that this bill probably touches every single American's life. It is extremely important because it is the broad reach of education and health care, and these are very complicated and large programs. And I want to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), chairman of the subcommittee, for the intense work that he has done not only on our side, but through the conference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I want to compliment both speakers from the Rules Committee. I think they have described in many ways the strength of this bill.

This bill illustrates the compassion of America. And as has been pointed out by both speakers, it touches the lives of 280 million Americans in so many different ways, their education, health research to improve the quality of their lives, perhaps illustrated by the fact, as Dr. Zerhouni testified in front of our committee, that every 5 years, life expectancy goes up 1 year in the United States. That is a tremendous gain and a tremendous promise for the future.

And, likewise, we recognize the importance of education. The future of a nation is so much tied to that. Tom Friedman, the writer for *The New York Times*, in his book "The World is Flat," points out that we will be enormously challenged as a Nation in the years ahead by other countries that are spending a lot of money, a lot of energy, and a lot of human resources on education, because they too recognize that the winner of the future will be

determined by the way in which they can educate their people.

This bill I call the "good neighbor policy" bill, because it means that we are all good neighbors to each other. And I think it does illustrate very clearly that America is a compassionate Nation, a compassionate people, and they are willing to commit resources to helping others. In the general debate, we will mention some of those things.

I would hope all of my colleagues who are going to be voting on this bill in the next couple or 3 hours would take a look at what is in there and how important many of these programs are to the Americans. There are 500 programs covered in this bill, and each one of them, in some way or another, touches the quality of life of the people of this Nation so that every American, in one way or another, as pointed out by the gentlewoman from California, has a stake on this bill and what it does in their lives. So, hopefully, we will all reach the understanding and support this bill.

Obviously, it may not have enough to suit everybody in terms of commitment of resources. Tough decisions have to be made. Priorities have to be decided. And what we tried to do on a bipartisan basis in the subcommittee, and we have a great group of members that serve on this subcommittee from both sides, is to make those very difficult priority judgments on behalf of the American people. And as was pointed out by both of the previous speakers, we have, hopefully, accomplished that goal as best as possible given the resources that were allocated.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I rise in opposition to this bill and to the rule.

Let it be known that November 17, 2005, is the day this Congress officially forgot the heroes of 9/11. When we vote on this conference report, we will be taking away \$125 million promised to sick 9/11 workers. This is money these men and women were promised by this Congress and by the President in 2001. But now, in an era of misdirected priorities, the President and this Congress are snatching the money back.

In fact, this bill is full of misdirected priorities when we consider that the Republican leadership will spend more on tax cuts this week, \$70 billion, than they will on education and labor programs for the entire coming year, \$68 billion.

□ 1115

You only start to realize how out of touch this Congress is with the priorities of the average American people. I hear daily from Members of Congress that we will never forget 9/11; but when we turn a cold shoulder to the men and women who were there for us in our

greatest hour of need, I cannot in good conscience vote for this bill.

The 9/11 responders are not asking for much. All they are asking for is to be treated with respect and dignity. They rushed to Ground Zero with no concern for their own safety. We were under attack, and America needed help. They responded; and as a result, many of them are very sick now. The government's response has been to fight these heroes every step of the way. Many have had their claims denied or wrapped up in red tape for months or years.

Then when not all of the money was spent in New York State, we are told this is justification for taking it back, even though the need is still great. This shell game would be comical if it were not so sad and so hard on the lives of these people.

I know this decision today is not the fault of the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA). I understand that his hands are tied on this issue. I would also like to thank a fellow New Yorker, Mr. WALSH. He has been an absolute champion for this issue in the committee.

Despite their hard work and the work of a united New York delegation, united Democrats and Republicans, the outcome today is not what it should be. The one thing I know and I can promise is that this fight is not over. I speak for all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, certainly in the New York delegation, that we are not going to stop until we meet the needs of the heroes of 9/11 and this promised money of \$125 million is restored to the budget. Anything short is just plain wrong, and it hurts the health care of our heroes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk a little bit about some of the priorities, particularly in the education section of this bill. I have already mentioned the TRIO and GEAR UP programs for first-time college goers. Certainly those are important programs in my State and throughout the United States.

But let us look at something that we are lacking across the Nation, and that is in our math and sciences. There has been special emphasis in this bill on math and science partnerships so we can train our future engineers to compete globally.

The chairman spoke about how the world is flat. Well, if we do not have math and science education at the elementary and high school level, we are not going to be able to compete in the global market. So I am proud of the \$184 million that is going to help with training teachers.

Special education is something that I think touches many, many families throughout the United States. We hear a lot about that in our office, and I am certain every Member's office. In special ed, this bill is funding over last year's budget \$100 million. Will that meet every need for every special ed

student? No, unfortunately it will not, and it cannot. But it will go towards helping those families and that student become a productive person in their adult life.

Reading programs and improving teacher quality programs. Certainly the key to success in school is reading, but the key to success in school is a good teacher. We need to improve the teacher quality and help our teachers become not only as good as they can be but even better. And that goes also to the principals. There is a principal shortage here in our country. We have to work with our teachers so they want to become principals and guide our teachers to educate our children. Those are some of the education priorities I wanted to highlight in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this country is at a critical crossroads in terms of deciding what it stands for, what its priorities are. Our priorities should be to make decisions based on shared sacrifice and a long-term view that seeks to fight for the least powerful among us.

Unfortunately, this rule would allow legislation with a shortsighted approach to come to the floor. All of us, Democrats and Republicans, hope that medical science will provide the breakthrough to provide relief from a disease which will ease a family member's suffering.

We all worry about whether rising energy costs will force seniors to make life-and-death decisions about where to spend their limited resources.

And yet this conference report ignores those very needs. It narrowly restricts the future of all Americans so that a very few might have a bit more of a tax break. That is an approach that I hope all Members will reject.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this fair rule and the bipartisan underlying legislation which funds critical dollars to our Nation's educational system, health care delivery system, and as the gentleman from California spoke so eloquently about, our health research areas.

With this funding, low-income Americans will be better prepared for a potentially long winter. It got a little colder here today, and we know it is going to continue to be cold as we move through the winter; and this bill provides \$2 billion in LIHEAP funding. Our seniors will greatly benefit from the money appropriated, allowing CMS to conduct outreach to all Medicare beneficiaries who are now able to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug plan.

These are all important programs, and there are others too numerous to mention. I urge my colleagues to support the rule, support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adoption of H. Res. 558, by the yeas and nays;

Adoption of H. Res. 559, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules on H. Res. 500, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. Res. 72, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 558 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 21, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 595]

YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Bishop (UT)	Buyer
Ackerman	Blackburn	Calvert
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Camp
Akin	Blunt	Cannon
Alexander	Boehlert	Cantor
Allen	Boehner	Capito
Baca	Bonilla	Capps
Bachus	Bonner	Capuano
Baird	Bono	Cardin
Baker	Boozman	Cardoza
Baldwin	Boren	Carnahan
Barrett (SC)	Boucher	Carson
Barrow	Boustany	Carter
Bartlett (MD)	Boyd	Case
Barton (TX)	Bradley (NH)	Castle
Bass	Brady (PA)	Chabot
Bean	Brady (TX)	Chandler
Beauprez	Brown (OH)	Chocola
Berkley	Brown (SC)	Clay
Berman	Brown, Corrine	Cleaver
Berry	Brown-Waite,	Clyburn
Biggart	Ginny	Coble
Bilirakis	Burgess	Cole (OK)
Bishop (GA)	Burton (IN)	Conaway
Bishop (NY)	Butterfield	Costa